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LETTER DATED 1 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

About 10 days ago, the Acting Zone Director of UNOSOM for north-west Somalia ("Somaliland") was told by the authorities that all United Nations personnel should withdraw from the region. Subsequently, on 28 September 1993, Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim Egal, the "President" of "Somaliland" told the Acting Zone Director that his administration had set Wednesday, 29 September, as the deadline for the withdrawal of UNOSOM from the north-west. A message to that effect was communicated to my Special Representative for Somalia, Admiral Jonathan Howe. Mr. Egal also asked my Special Representative to inform him about the intention of the United Nations towards the region, both in the political and economic areas.

Despite the deadline of 29 September for UNOSOM's withdrawal from the north-west, Mr. Egal intimated that he could wait for a reply from the United Nations until 2 October 1993. On the evening of the original deadline, 29 September, the authorities in the north-west confirmed that UNOSOM must withdraw from the region by 2 October if no reply was received from the United Nations.

The Acting Zone Director has advised UNOSOM that he expected the security situation for United Nations personnel in the north-west to deteriorate if Mr. Egal did not receive a reply to his communication to my Special Representative. The United Nations Security Coordinator concurs with this assessment. In view of the security concerns and given the fact that the mandate of UNOSOM II is under Chapter VII of the Charter, I would like to seek the guidance of the Security Council on how to proceed on this matter.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI